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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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DOGM  
MINERALS PROGRAM  
FILE COPY

August 14, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HS*

RE: Citizen's Complaint, Barrick Mercur Tailings Pond,  
M/045/017, Tooele County, Utah

On Monday, August 7, 1989, I received a phone call from Charlie Dietz of Bureau of Water Pollution Control. Mr. Dietz informed me that a Mr. Leo Ault had just contacted him in regard to some wildlife problems associated with the Barrick Mercur tailings pond.

Apparently, Mr. Ault had noticed that some animals, deer or elk, were able to access the pond through holes in a protective fence, or by jumping over the fence.

I spoke to Mr. Ault on August 14, 1989, over the phone. I was told that the animal problem with Barrick Mercur's tailings pond, has been on-going. Two years ago, five elk died from drinking the water. More recently, he has noticed that some of the facilities, with which, Barrick Mercur promised to mitigate animal mortalities, have not been maintained or completed. Several water troughs intended for watering elk and deer remain empty. An inner fence intended to prevent animal access remains in an unfinished state. Portions of an outer fence are only four feet high allowing easy access for elk or deer.

Mr. Ault indicated that he has been able to obtain little satisfaction from Wildlife Resources or the Tooele County Health Department, on this issue.

I would like to propose that the Minerals Team pay a visit to the Barrick Mercur site in the near future. The visit might be performed jointly with representatives from Division of Wildlife Resources.

jb  
cc: Lowell Braxton  
Minerals Team  
MN4/163